



"CUSTOMER-OWNED for CUSTOMER BENEFIT"

961 12TH AVENUE • BOX NO. 3007 • LONGVIEW, WASHINGTON 98632 • (360) 423-2210 FAX (360) 577-7559

Board of Commissioners:

EDWARD M. PIPER JOHN M. SEARING GALE R. VAN CUREN

General Manager:

DENNIS P. ROBINSON

March 28, 2000

VIA FAX AND MAIL

Department of the Army
Walla Walla District Corps of Engineers
Attn: Lower Snake River Study
201 North Third Avenue
Walla Walla, WA 99362-1876

Dear Sir or Madam:

We have followed with much interest the articles in various newspapers regarding meetings the Corps of Engineers has conducted around the region to take comments on the Draft Lower Snake River Juvenile Salmon Migration Feasibility Report/Environmental Impact Statement. It was our understanding that the Corps was seeking responsible comment on the Report and would not be influenced by what, apparently, sometimes turned into a circus atmosphere at these meetings. We are concerned by a March 23, 2000 article in *The Oregonian*; however, implying that the Corps might be overly influenced by a small, but very vocal, interest group that supports dam removal.

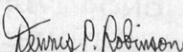
We encourage the Corps to look for solutions that do not include risky and unproven experiments such as breaching the four hydro projects on the lower Snake River. Science does not support such measures and once implemented, a dam breaching decision cannot be undone. This is not simply a conflict between dams and fish, and such an oversimplification has already tainted the opinion of many less-informed citizens of the region. Certainly the Corps better understands the many issues regarding survival of the salmon.

We find it ironic that just a few weeks ago a forum titled "Keeping the Lights On" featured speakers from many groups of the environmental and energy communities that agreed we have a power supply deficit in the region. Northwest Power Planning Council studies indicate a current 24 percent probability of supply inadequacy and a need for 3,000 MW of supply. Yet, at the same time, some of the same groups lamenting the predicted power supply reliability problem are seriously advocating the removal of that same amount of nameplate capacity of clean, efficient, renewable hydro generation. This does not make sense.

We encourage the Corps to work toward a reasonable and achievable solution that helps salmon by recognizing the credible science that is now available while also recognizing the importance of a clean, affordable and renewable energy supply, flood control, navigation, irrigation and the recreation opportunities already available with the current river system.

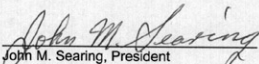
Thank you for considering our comments.

Very truly yours,

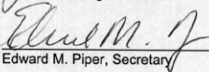


Dennis P. Robinson, General Manager

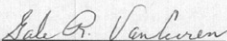
Cowlitz County PUD
Board of Commissioners



John M. Searing, President



Edward M. Piper, Secretary



Gale R. Van Curen, Vice President

bjm/admin.Corps of Engineers

cc: Brian Baird
Slade Gorton
Patty Murray